[7th February 1924

The Periyar scheme.

264 Q.—Mr. M. RATNASWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what stage the Periyar scheme for generating power has reached and what the claims are of the Irrigation Department which the promoters of the scheme have found unacceptable?

A.—The concession which was granted to Mr. A. H. Garrett, Retired Chief Engineer, in November 1919, and subsequently taken over by a Syndicate composed of Messrs. Alfred Dickinson & Co., Limited, and others, has just been determined as the concessionaires have failed to promote a company with the requisite capital. Government are not aware of any claims of the Irrigation Department which the promoters found unacceptable.

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—" May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he has dealt with Mr. Cotton's industrial report attached to the last administration report where a view is expressed that on account of the difficulties expressed by the Irrigation Department, the Periyar irrigation works could not be dealt with? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—" I have got Mr. Cotton's opinion, but, so far as anything depends upon the Member in charge of electric power, all that I can say is that no one is more anxious than myself to develop electricity in the South of India and that every facility will be given to *bona fide* attempts in that direction."

The modified Tungabhadra project.

265 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is under the consideration of the Government any project known as the modified Tungabhadra project;

(b) whether it has been investigated or is still under investigation;

(c) if it is under investigation, the time when it will be completed;

(d) the districts which will be benefited by that project; and

(e) the probable extent of land in each district that will be served by that project?

A.—In connexion with the scheme for a reservoir on the Kistna at Sangameswaram proposed by the late Chief Engineer on Special Duty (Mr. A. V. Ramalinga Ayyar) a proposal has been made to utilize the Tungabhadra waters for the irrigation of 200,000 acres of land in the Bellary district. The latter scheme can be taken up for consideration only after the results of the preliminary investigation now in progress in connexion with the former are known.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" May I enquire, Sir, whether the modified Tungabhadra project is successful? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—" It depends upon the balance of convenience and the balance of advantages. The Sangameswaram project which has now been reported upon, and whose success depends upon the concurrence of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, will give more lasting benefits."